General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 99 (*g*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2013

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/68/411)*]

68/52. Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

The General Assembly,

Mindful of contributing to the process initiated within the framework of the United Nations reform to make the Organization more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction,

Underlining the importance of a comprehensive and integrated approach to disarmament through the development of practical measures,

Welcoming the requirement of the Arms Trade Treaty[1] that States parties establish and maintain a national control system to regulate the export of relevant ammunition and munitions,

Taking note of the report of the Group of Experts on the problem of ammunition and explosives,[2]

Recalling the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Open-ended Working Group to Negotiate an International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,[3] namely, to address the issue of small arms and light weapons ammunition in a comprehensive manner as part of a separate process conducted within the framework of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the work and measures pursued at the regional and subregional levels with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition,

Recalling its decision 59/515 of 3 December 2004 and its resolutions 60/74 of 8 December 2005 and 61/72 of 6 December 2006, its resolution 63/61 of

[1] See resolution 67/234 B.
[2] See A/54/155.
[3] A/60/88 and Corr.2.

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2 December 2008, by which it welcomed the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus,[4] and its resolution 64/51 of 2 December 2009,

Taking note of the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts and encouraging the use, as appropriate, of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, which are available to States on a voluntary basis, as well as the recommendations of the Group on improving knowledge resource management on technical ammunition issues within the United Nations system, and noting the subsequent establishment, within the Secretariat, of the Safer*G*uard knowledge resource management programme,[5]

1. *Encourages* all interested States to assess, on a voluntary basis, whether, in conformity with their legitimate security needs, parts of their stockpiles of conventional ammunition should be considered to be in surplus, and recognizes that the security of such stockpiles must be taken into consideration and that appropriate controls with regard to the security and safety of stockpiles of conventional ammunition are indispensable at the national level in order to eliminate the risk of explosion, pollution or diversion;

2. *Appeals* to all interested States to determine the size and nature of their surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, whether they represent a security risk, their means of destruction, if appropriate, and whether external assistance is needed to eliminate this risk;

3. *Encourages* States in a position to do so to assist interested States within a bilateral framework or through international or regional organizations, on a voluntary and transparent basis, in elaborating and implementing programmes to eliminate surplus stockpiles or to improve their management;

4. *Encourages* all Member States to examine the possibility of developing and implementing, within a national, regional or subregional framework, measures to address accordingly the illicit trafficking related to the accumulation of such stockpiles;

5. *Takes note* of the replies submitted by Member States in response to the request of the Secretary-General for views regarding the risks arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus and regarding national ways of strengthening controls on conventional ammunition;[6]

6. *Continues to encourage* States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 61/72 to consider further steps to enhance cooperation with regard to the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;[4]

7. *Recalls* the completion of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and the establishment of the Safer*G*uard knowledge resource management programme for the stockpile management of conventional ammunition, developed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat, with the full

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[4] A/63/182.

[5] Ibid., paras. 72 and 73.

[6] A/61/118 and Add.1 and A/62/166 and Add.1.

involvement of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts;

8. *Welcomes* the completion of implementation software and training materials that facilitate the application of the Technical Guidelines in the field;

9. *Encourages*, in this regard, the safe and secure management of ammunition stockpiles in the planning and conduct of peacekeeping operations,[7] including through the training of peacekeepers, utilizing the Technical Guidelines;

10. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Safer*G*uard quick-response mechanism, which allows ammunitions experts to be deployed rapidly to assist States, upon request, in the urgent management of ammunition stockpiles, including in the aftermath of unintended explosions of ammunition, and encourages States in a position to do so to provide technical expertise or financial support to the mechanism;

11. *Encourages* States wishing to improve their national stockpile management capacity, prevent the growth of conventional ammunition surpluses and address wider risk mitigation to contact the Safer*G*uard programme, as well as potential national donors and regional organizations, as appropriate, with a view to developing cooperation, including, where relevant, technical expertise;

12. *Reiterates* its decision to address the issue of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus in a comprehensive manner;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", the sub-item entitled "Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus".

60th plenary meeting
5 December 2013

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[7] A/63/182, para. 74.